



Parishes of Mater Dei Blakehurst & St Raphael's South Hurstville

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A Bulletin 5th Feb 2023

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 94:6-7

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who
made us, for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading: Is 58:7-10

Your light will shine like the dawn.

Responsorial Psalm : Ps 111:4-9. R. v.4

(R.) A light rises in the darkness for
the upright.

1. He is a light in the darkness for
the upright: he is generous,
merciful and just. The good
man takes pity and lends, he
conducts his affairs with hon-
our. (R.)
2. The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the
Lord. (R.)
3. With a steadfast heart he will not
fear; open-handed, he gives to
the poor; his justice stands firm
for ever. His head will be raised
in glory. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Cor 2:1-5

I came to you to proclaim Christ cru-
cified.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the
Lord; the man who follows me will
have the light of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel : Mt 5:13-16

You are the light of the world.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 106:8-9

Let them thank the Lord for his mer-
cy, his wonders for the children of
men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good
things.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Today, when we describe a person as being the 'salt of the earth' it's generally meant in a way that says the person is hard working, straight talking and pretty down to earth. It's usually meant as a compliment but sometimes can come across as a bit condescending when used inappropriately. When Jesus tells the disciples that they are salt of the earth and the light of the world he is really saying 'You are to *be* the salt of the earth; you are to *be* the light of the world.' It is more of a directive than an affirmation of them.

Today's first reading from Isaiah helps to shed light on Jesus' meaning in the gospel passage: 'Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn.' It sounds a lot like the message from the last judgment in Matthew 25 when the king says 'whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' It's a message of justice and right relationship not only with God but with one another also.

To be salt of the earth and light of the world means to be the one who puts their hand up and steps forward to speak for, work for and act for those who are the least in this world. To have the potential and resources to be a force for good in the world and not act on it is to be like salt that's used for salting the streets or a lamp that's under a tub.

Scriptural context – Following blessings

Today's gospel passage is one that is quite commonly quoted and relative-ly well known. When it is taken in isolation, it's very easy to forget that these words immediately follow the Beatitudes that we heard in last week's gospel. The imperative for justice in the images of salt and light of the world becomes even clearer when we remember that these words follow the blessings on those who are poor; who mourn; who are merciful and fight for justice. Jesus has blessed all these who are least in the world and then charges the disciples to be salt and light for them.

Have you thought? – Affirmation or Challenge

The salt and light of the world passage is often used to affirm and encour- age, but when Jesus tells his disciples – and us – to be salt and light of the world it is not so that they can draw attention and glory to themselves. The whole purpose of being salt and light is to lead others into right relationship with one another and with God. Whilst the translation we have clearly states that disciples are to be salt and light of the world, it is just as clear that the intention is that they/we be salt and light *for* the world.

Scriptural context – Following blessings

Gandhi, the great leader of the Indian independence movement, is credited with saying, 'You must be the change you want to see in the world.' He sought a life free from tyranny and violence and so led a movement of non- violent resistance. It's tempting to think that he may have been influenced by some of the teachings of Jesus because so much of his approach re- flected Jesus' call for justice. The charge to be the light of the world that shines in the sight of all and sets an example for all is echoed succinctly in Gandhi's words.

UNITED IN FAITH, GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT NOURISHED BY THE EUCHARIST, COMMITTED TO
PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL WE STRIVE TO LIVE AS GOD ASKS

"to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8)

Health is God's great gift, and we must spend it entirely for Him. Our eyes should see only for God, our feet walk only for Him, our hands labor for Him alone; in short, our entire body should serve God while we still have the time. Then, when He shall take our health and we shall near our last day, our conscience will not reproach us for having misused it. - St John Bosco

MASS TIMES

	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tuesday		9:15am Mass
Wednesday		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thursday	9:15am School and Parish Mass	
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	8:45am Adoration 9:15am Mass
Saturday	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	No Vigil Mass on 4th Feb 2023.
Sunday	8:00am Mass 6:00pm Croatian Mass	10:00am Mass



We sadly announce the passing away of our long term Mater Dei parishioner, **Margaret Ratcliffe** on Sun 29th Jan 2023. She was 92. The funeral is at 11:00am on Wednesday 8th Feb at Mater Dei Church, Blakehurst. May Margaret find eternal peace and rest with the Lord. Our thoughts and prayers are with her families at this time.

Word of God/Catechist Sunday
St Raphael's 5th Feb 2023 8am
Mater Dei 12th Feb 2023 10am

Late Vinnies Donations totaling \$2047.00 increased the total Christmas Appeal to \$4431.00. Thank you to everyone for their generosity.



Children' Liturgy

at Mater Dei Church during 10:00am Mass every 4th Sunday of the month. Contact: Michael Fernandes 0437 517758

6:15pm Vigil Mass at Mater Dei

Will commence on Sat 11th Feb 2023. No Mass on Sat 4th Feb 2023

The Catholic Weekly

PULPIT POINTS 5th Feb 2023

- Elizabeth Tabish: Playing the Apostle to the Apostles
- The face on the Shroud. Author to speak.
- Gender dysphoria. Sensitivity and fidelity
- Giving young marriages strong foundations
- The Cardinal who loved Lebanon
- A Bible that's beautiful

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	303.40	90.75
Second: loose	293.25	171.95
Envelopes	320.00	550.00

MORNING CUPPA



There'll be morning tea after the mass at Mater Dei as well as St Raphaels.

Parish Ministries Required

1 Peter 4:10-11. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

We need Acolytes, Children's ministry coordinators & Musicians.

2023 Courses are available for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Acolytes and Readers. Please contact any Acolyte or Fr Thomas if you are interested.

Pray for recently deceased: Therese Chan

Pray for good health of : Wang Zhao (Fr of Maggie Wang), Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapata, Yin Kwan Tsang.

Pray for the deceased: Joseph Flores Manlucu, Jeffrey Bishop, Jeanette McGloin, Shirley McGrath, Antonius Widjaja, Souls in purgatory.

Baptism this week at St Raphael Church



Darren Cao
(child of Yan Song and Chengnan Cao)
Congratulations to the family!

4th/5th Feb (1st Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am		10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Gary, Max	No Vigil Mass	Volunteer
Readers	Pavia Family	Maria C Ronnie C		Gail Abbott Luisa Galea
11th/12th Feb (2nd Sunday)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5.00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
Acolytes	Greg Driver	Michael B	Volunteer	Volunteer
Readers	Barry L Volunteer	Rounds Family	Family Mass	Joan Hanson, Jean Dorahy

Mater Dei & St Raphael's Parish Calendar 2023

21-02-23	MD Council Meeting 7:00pm	Mater Dei
28-02-23	SR Council Meeting 7:00pm	St Raphael

ROSARY

St Raphael's Church	Mater Dei Church
Every Monday at 7:30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Every Sunday 9:30am before the 10am mass

Mater Dei Home Rosary

7-2-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
14-2-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM All are welcome

Sherlock Holmes - Elementary Dear Watson

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson go on a camping trip, set up their tent, and fall asleep. Some hours later, Holmes wakes his faithful friend. 'Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see.' Watson replies, 'I see millions of stars.' 'What does that tell you?' Watson ponders for a minute. 'Astronomically speaking, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, it's evident the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you? Holmes is silent for a moment, then speaks. 'Watson, you idiot, someone has stolen our tent.'



PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Thomas Alukka
M: 0469 236 118 E: tomyalukka@gmail.com
MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH
1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst 2221, NSW

ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
84 George Street, South Hurstville

Website: <https://www.materdei-straphael.org.au/>

Parish Secretary: Juliana Widjaja
Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm
Phone: 02 9546 2605
Email: admin@materdei-straphael.org.au

Parish Ministry Coordinator & Safeguarding Officer Michael Fernandes
Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 10am - 2:30pm
M: 0437 517 758 E: mc@materdei-straphael.org.au

Pastoral Ministry Coordinator: Br. Ben Krupowicz
Phone: 02 95462544 Email: strsh@outlook.com

Fr. Jan Chrzczonowicz : Phone: 0412 786 245

Mater Dei Primary School: (02) 9546 7298

Principal: Ms Melanie Headley

St. Raphael Primary School: (02) 9546 4898

Principal: Mrs Annette McKenzie